



**PROVIDENCE**  
— EST. 1972 —  
**THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

## **OT5301 Pentateuch**

Prerequisites: none

**January 14-18, 2019**

**Winter Term 2019 (Module)**

**Monday–Friday, 9am–4pm**

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### **Course Description**

A study of the Pentateuch that provides orientation to the original context of the first five books of the Old Testament, as well as the influence these works had in the shaping of the Old Testament and New Testament and still have in our current context of biblical and theological studies.

### **Relationship to Horizon's Mission**

The Pentateuch is the beginning point of the unfolding story of God working in and through His creation. Wrestling with the text and interacting with the lives of the Patriarchs, the people of Israel, and Moses and engaging with how they lived in relationship with God guides us as we wrestle in our context with what it means to live out our relationship with God in Christian life and ministry.

### **Learning Objectives**

#### *Cognitive:*

- Orient the Pentateuch within the culture of the ancient Near East
- Explore the theological trajectory of the Pentateuch.
- Gain new insights into the character of God with specific attention to His revelation in the Pentateuch

#### *Affective:*

- Be enriched by the devotional importance of the Pentateuch
- Engage with the manner in which God interacts with his people in the Pentateuch

#### *Conative:*

- Apply the theological witness of the Pentateuch to contemporary issues
- Articulate the importance of the Pentateuch in the rest of the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament

### Course Texts

Alexander, T. Desmond. *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch*. 3rd Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012. (ISBN: 0801039983)

Clines, David J. A. *The Theme of the Pentateuch: Second Edition*. JSOT Supplement, 10. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1997. (ISBN: 1850757925)

Wenham, Gordon J. *Exploring the Old Testament, Vol. 1: A Guide to the Pentateuch*. Downers Groves: InterVarsity Press, 2003. (ISBN: 083082541X)

Show evidence of your reading of these textbooks through participation in class discussion as well as in your exegetical and theological research paper assignments.

### ***Supplementary Readings: (all material will be on Reserve at the Library)***

1. From: Alexander, T. Desmond and David W. Baker (eds). *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
  - Read five (5) essays that are specifically related to assignments 2 and/or 3
  - Do not select the introductory essays on the specific books of the Pentateuch (e.g. Deuteronomy, Book of).
2. From: Bruce Waltke with Charles Yu. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.
  - Read pages 173-511
3. From: Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer. *Readings from the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Study*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
  - Read pages 21-50 (creation stories), 98-101 (covenants), 111-115 (laws), 128-133 (rituals)
4. From: John H. Walton and D. Brent Sandy. *The Lost World of Scripture: Ancient Literary Culture and Biblical Authority*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2013.
  - Read pages 17-48, 216-223

### Course Requirements

#### **1. Critical Review of Assigned Readings**

Submit a critical review and analysis of the supplementary readings listed above.

Guidelines:

- Part 1 - personal reflections on each item you read

- Part 2 - critical assessment of the readings as a whole (e.g, what are key issues raised? where is there agreement/disagreement amongst the authors? How do you view the topics in light of input from the commentators? etc.)

*Length: 6-7 pages (250 words per page)*

- The length of your response for each item should be appropriate to the length of the reading (i.e., 1 to 2 pages for the Waltke commentary; one-half to one page for each of the five articles from the dictionary; one page each for selections from Arnold/Beyer and Walton/Sandy)

*Value: 30%*

*Due Date: To be arranged*

## **2. Exegesis Paper**

Prepare an exegetical research paper based on a passage from the Pentateuch.

Guidelines:

- Conform to the general guidelines of biblical exegesis (a handout will be provided)
- Orient the selected passage within the context of the Old Testament
- Consider the implications of the passage for life today, especially in your own context.

*Length: 12-14 pages*

*Value: 40%*

*Due Date: To be arranged*

## **3. Theology Paper**

Trace a theological theme from the Pentateuch through the remainder of the Old Testament and into the New Testament.

Guidelines:

- First examine how the theme is presented within the context of the Pentateuch
- Then engage with how the theme is developed in the rest of the OT and NT.

*Length: 8-10 pages*

*Value: 30%*

*Due Date: To be arranged*

Possible topics: Sinai; Theophany; Covenant; Sacrifice; People of God; Creation; a suitable topic of your choice (\*must be cleared with me in advance)

**Note:**

- In an exegesis paper, you ‘go deep’ to examine a specific passage of the Bible
- In a theology paper, you ‘go wide’ to examine a specific theme across the entire Bible

## **General Assignment Guidelines**

All written assignments should:

- Follow the “Chicago Style” of formatting.
- Be typed, double-spaced and follow appropriate formatting guidelines (e.g. 1 inch margins).

- Use **Times New Roman** font only, *italics* rather than underlining (including in the footnotes and bibliography), and **footnotes** only, not endnotes.
- Not exceed the **maximum length**; papers will receive a grade reduction and may not be graded at all.
- Employ **gender-inclusive language** wherever possible and appropriate.

Failure to follow these simple guidelines warrants a grade reduction. All assignments may be submitted to the professor's e-mail address and in **PDF** format. When you submit electronic files, please name them as follows:

LASTNAME\_Firstname – Course Abbreviation - Title of assignment (as given on this syllabus)

Example: **FULLER\_David – OT5301 – Exegesis Paper**

### **Evaluation of Course Assignments**

The grading rubric for each paper will include three categories:

- presentation,
- argumentation,
- and content

### **Bibliography**

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Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *The Pentateuch: An Introduction to the First Five Books of the Bible*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

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Brueggemann, Walter. *The Covenanted Self: Explorations in Law and Covenant*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1999.

Dozeman, Thomas B. *The Pentateuch: Introducing the Torah*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017.

Dozeman, Thomas B., Thomas Römer, and Konrad Schmid, eds. *Pentateuch, Hexateuch, or Enneateuch?: Identifying Literary Works in Genesis Through Kings*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

Dozeman, Thomas B., Konrad Schmid, and Baruch J. Schwartz, eds. *The Pentateuch: International Perspectives on Current Research*. FAT 78. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2011.

Enns, Peter. *The Evolution of Adam: What the Bible Does and Doesn't Say about Human Origins*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2012.

Fretheim, Terence. *The Pentateuch*. In *Interpreting Biblical Texts*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

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- Knoppers, Gary N., and Bernard M. Levinson, eds. *The Pentateuch as Torah: New Models for Understanding Its Promulgation and Acceptance*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2007.
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- Rogerson, John W., ed. *The Pentateuch*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.
- Walton, John H. and Victor H. Matthews. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Genesis-Deuteronomy*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1997.
- Watts, James W. *Persia and Torah: The Theory of Imperial Authorization of the Pentateuch*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Reading Law: The Rhetorical Shaping to the Pentateuch*. Sheffield, Sheffield Academic, 1999.
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- Whybray, R. Norman. *Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Making of the Pentateuch: A Methodological Study*. JSOTSup, 53. Sheffield: JSOT, 1994.

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- Alter, Robert. *Genesis; Translation and Commentary*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1996.
- Arnold, Bill T. *Genesis*. New Cambridge Bible Commentary. Cambridge, 2009.
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